

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: UPI REPORT OF SOVIET EMBASSY LEAKS

FOR SONNENFELDT FROM KELLY

UPI TICKER CARRIED FOLLOWING ITEM NOVEMBER 15.

BEGIN TEXT: DISARMAMENT

BY HENRY KEYS

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- MOSCOW HAS ADOPTED SECRETARY OF STATE
HENRY KISSINGER'S TACTIC OF SPEAKING TO REPORTERS FOR
QUOTATION AS AN ANONYMOUS "SENIOR OFFICIAL."

THIS WEEK, THE SOVIET EMBASSY HAD "OFFICIALS" LEAK
THE SUBSTANCE OF MOSCOW'S LATEST NOTE REJECTING U.S.
PROPOSALS OF SEPT 21 WHICH SUGGESTED THAT THE RUSSIAN
LONG-RANGE BACKFIRE BOMBERS AND AMERICAN "CRUISE MISSILES"
BE INCLUDED IN A STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT.

IT WAS AN UNUSUAL PLOY FOR THE SOVIET EMBASSY, BUT WITH
MOSCOW UNDER HEATED ATTACK BY KISSINGER, AMBASSADOR
ANATOLIY DOBRYNIN HAD MINISTER COUNSELOR YULY VORONTSOV
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CONFIDE IN A SELECTED FEW REPORTERS SO LONG AS THEY

ATTRIBUTED THEIR INFORMATION TO UNNAMED EMBASSY OFFICIALS.

THE REASON WAS MOSCOW'S RESENTMENT OF KISSINGER'S STATEMENT AT A NEWS CONFERENCE MONDAY THAT ITS FLAT REJECTION OCT 30 OF U.S. PROPOSALS REGARDING THE BACKFIRES AND THE CRUISE MISSILES WAS NOT A "SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE" TO A "SERIOUS" U.S. PROPOSITION AND WAS THEREFORE UNACCEPTABLE.

THE "OFFICIALS" SAID THE SOVIET REPLY WAS NOT A "FLAT REJECTION", BUT THAT MOSCOW HAD EXPLAINED IT COULD NOT AGREE TO ADDING ANY SPECIFIED NUMBERS OF BACKFIRES AND CRUISE MISSILES TO THE CEILING OF 2,400 STRATEGIC DELIVERY VEHICLES AGREED UPON BY PRESIDENT FORD AND SOVIET SECRETARY GENERAL LEONID BREZHNEV AT VLADIVOSTOCK IN NOVEMBER, 1974.

TO DO SO, MOSCOW ARGUED, WOULD AMOUNT TO REWRITING THE VLADIVOSTOCK UNDERSTANDING, SINCE ADDING THE BACKFIRES AND CRUISE MISSILES WOULD INCREASE THE NUMBER OF DELIVERY VEHICLES.

ACCORDING TO THE SOVIET "OFFICIALS", THE UNITED STATES SUGGESTED THAT PROVISION BE MADE FOR 200 BACKFIRES ARMED WITH NUCLEAR WARHEADS AND 200 CRUISE MISSILES SIMILARLY ARMED.

ALTHOUGH THE "OFFICIALS" DID NOT SAY SO, MOSCOW DOES NOT REGARD THAT AS A FAIR TRADE.

AS KISSINGER EXPLAINED IT AT HIS MONDAY NEWS CONFERENCE, THE BACKFIRES, ON ONE-WAY MISSIONS AND FLYING SUBSONICALLY, COULD DUMP NUCLEAR WARHEADS ON THE UNITED STATES.

BY COMPARISON, UNMANNED CRUISE MISSILES OF MUCH SHORTER RANGE WOULD HAVE TO BE LAUNCHED FROM SUBMARINES WITHIN A FEW HUNDRED MILES OF THE SOVIET UNION.

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KISSINGER SAID MONDAY THE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS WERE IN A STATE OF "STAGNATION" ON THE ISSUE.

"IT IS A STAGNATION WE ARE PREPARED TO BREAK", HE SAID. "WE ARE PREPARED TO LOOK FOR AN HONORABLE COMPROMISE, BUT IT IS UP TO THE SOVIET UNION TO BE PREPARED ALSO TO MAKE A COMPROMISE."

KISSINGER DISCUSSED THE DISPUTE WITH DOBRYNIN OVER
LUNCH FRIDAY AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

NO OFFICIAL INFORMATION WAS AVAILABLE ON THEIR
DISCUSSION, BUT SOURCES BELIEVED IT UNLIKELY THE DISPUTE
WAS RESOLVED, SINCE DOBRYNIN WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT MOSCOW.

UNTIL THE DISPUTE IS SOLVED, THEY SAID, THERE COULD
BE NO HOPE OF A STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT -- OR
THE LONG PLANNED FORD-BREZHNEV SUMMIT. END TEXT INGERSOLL

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